Mrs. Thankamma N. Menon *(Ernakulam-Women):* May I know what harm is there in recording their impressions when they visit the hospitals?

Rao Sahib Dr. T. Verghese *(Chief Medical Officer):* None at all.

Rao Sahib K. Ayyappan *(Ezhuvas-Kanayannur):* Will they be allowed to record their impression whenever they go to the hospitals hereafter?

Rao Sahib Dr. T. Verghese *(Chief Medical Officer):* That means the office will have to be left open always. If one honorary visitor takes to his head to visit a hospital at 7 O'clock or 8 O'clock, the office will not be open, the Civil Surgeon may be otherwise engaged and it will be difficult to get the book. Ordinarily, I don't see any difficulty at all.

Rao Sahib K. Ayyappan *(Ezhuvas-Kanayannur):* If they visit during office-hours, will they be allowed to write down their impressions then and there?

Rao Sahib Dr. T. Verghese *(Chief Medcial Officer):* Of course, they can.

Rao Sahib K. Ayyappan *(Ezhuvas-Kanayannur):* Do the Government concede that they have got the right to ask for the book to record their impressions? I want to make it clear and definite.

Mr. President: The time for questions and answers has expired.

GENERAL HOSPITAL—X-RAY APPARATUS—SUPPLY OF

23. **Mr. A. B. Salem** *(Mattancheri):* Will Government be pleased to inform.—

(*a*) what stage has been reached in the attempts to supply Maximar "250" Shockproof Deep X-Ray Theraphy Apparatus and Superficial Intermediate Therapy Apparatus;

(*b*) whether any individual or society have given or promised any money contribution towards the purchase of these plants for the General Hospital X-Ray Department; if so, the amounts so given or promised;

(*c*) will Government be further pleased to state their estimate of time within which these plants will become available for relief to be given to those who need such X-Ray treatment?

Rao Sahib Dr. T. Verghese *(Chief Medical Officer):*

(*a*) Quotation has been called for from Messrs. Victor X-Ray Corporation (India) Ltd. Bangalore City.

(*b*) Yes. Rs. 15,000 have been promised.

(*c*) No definite information can be furnished now.

NUMBER OF PATIENTS TREATED IN HOSPITALS

24. **Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan** *(Vadakkancheri):* Will Government be pleased to state.—

(*a*) what is the number of in-patients treated in the various Allopathic hospitals and dispensaries in the State;

(*b*) what is the number of nurses employed in all the institutions in (*a*)?

Rao Sahih Dr. T. Verghese *(Chief Medical Officer):*

(*a*) As the period for which the information asked for is not specified no definite answer can be given.

(*b*) *(Appendix IV.)*

25. **Mr. K. Narayana Menon** *(Mulakunnathukavu):* Will Government be pleased to state.—

(*a*) whether Anthikkad had not an out-post police station attached to the cusba;

(*b*) whether the Sub-Inspector or station house officer in charge of the cusba station is expected to visit and stay at the out-post at least every fifteen days?

Khan Sahib Muhammad Habibuddin Siddhiki Sahib Bahadur *(Commissioner of Police):* (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) No.

ADJOURNMENT MOTIONS

Mr. President: I have received four notices asking for leave to adjourn the business of the House. Two of these notices relate to the recent action taken by Government in connection with certain bodies, in Anthikad. I have disallowed these motions as in my opinion they cannot be moved consistently with public interest.

I have received notice from Mr. Bhaskara Menon asking for leave to adjourn the business of the House to discuss an urgent matter of public importance to wit the recent fixing of prices

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

of the various articles, imported from British India. I am not satisfied that this is an urgent matter of public importance or a matter of recent occurrence. But I am prepared to hear the Hon'ble Member.

Mr. V. K. Bhaskara Menon *(Cranganur):* These prices Sir, were fixed between the last meeting of this House and this meeting of the House so that this is a matter which I could not have brought before this House at any previous meeting.

Mr. President: The notice is not sufficiently specific. May I know the articles to which you refer.

Mr. V. K. Bhaskara Menon *(Cranganur):* May I know Sir, whether I should give a long list. The list is tremendously long.

Mr. President: I want to be satisfied that the Hon'ble Member's notice refers to a specific matter and it is not necessary to give a long list to satisfy me on that score. Illustrations will do.

Mr. V. K. Bhaskara Menon *(Cranganur):* For example Sir, Mr. Andrews Liversalt which is used as a remedy by many people here. The price fixed in British India was at a particular rate. The price fixed under Drugs Control Order is far lower here.

Mr. Presidant: May I know the exact prices?

Mr. V. K. Bhaskara Menon *(Cranganur):* I have not got the exact figures. If you are not prepared to accept my statement that it is lower I am considerably handicaped.

Mr. President: I do not for a moment dispute, the accuracy of the Hon'ble Member's statement. But under the Standing Orders I must be satisfied that this is a specific matter of recent occurrence and of public importance. It is not for my own personal benefit but it is for the benefit of the House. If the Hon'ble Member will give a specific instance giving the difference in prices, that will help to satisfy me.

Mr. V. K. Bhaskara Menon *(Cranganur):* Blue Gillet Blades are quoted in the Government of India Gazette at one rupee for five. The Cochin Government rate is 14 annas.

Mr. President: That is an instance.

Mr. V. K. Bhaskara Menon *(Cranganur):* I do not remember the prices just now. I have very carefully gone through the figures. Waterbury's Compound is another instance. I thought it was not necessary for me to learn all these by heart. You can take my assurance that as a matter of fact I have gone through this.

Mr. Pesident: May I ask the Hon'ble Member to satisfy me on another point. Taking for granted that the prices are different what follows from that. What is the important significance which would justify the adjournment of the House?

Mr. V. K. Bhaskara Menon *(Cranganur):* The important consequence that follows is these articles which are required in Cochin State cannot be imported and the consumers are not able to get them. It is impossible for the importer to purchase these things there and transport them unless the importers are allowed sufficient margin for transport and other things.

Rao Sahib M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies):* In fixing the prices of articles what we generally do in regard to certain articles for which there is an all-India Price such as Boot-polish, blades, etc, is generally to adopt those rates. It sometimes happens that the rates fixed by the Government of India are altered. In order to revise that rate here some time elapses. That may possibly be the reason why the blades referred to were sold at different prices—14 annas here and 1 rupee there.

Mr. President: May I ask whether you accept the Hon'ble Member's statement that there is difference in price.

Rao Sahib M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies):* There is some difference. With regard to articles prices of which are fixed by Provinces like Bombay and Madras we generally add transport charges also to fix the local prices. In regard to other articles the Government of India fixes the price at which they can be sold throughout the country. It will be difficult if one price is fixed in one border and another price at another border. That is why the same price is adopted in regard to such articles.

Mr. Presidet: May I know from the Hon'ble Member whether the only reason why there is a difference in price is that the notified prices in Madras are altered and some time should elapse before we can get our prices altered?

Rao Sahib M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies):* Generally.

Mr. Presidet: Generally? Not always?

Rao Sahib M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies):* In these cases the difference is due to the fact that they revise the prices. In some cases we are going to revise and in other cases we have already revised the prices.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

Mr. President: Have you any machinery which examines the prices published in other parts of India and automatically revises our prices to agree with them ?

Rao Sahib M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies):* As soon as prices are published we take them automatically without waiting for any complaint and revise the rate so that it may agree with the prices there.

Mr. V. K. Bhaskara Menon *(Cranganur):* The difficulty comes because of this fact that the prices in British India are being revised by the British Indian Government occasionally whenever they find the prices originally fixed are not correct. If there is a machinery here by which the prices there automatically become the prices here plus the transport charges, there will not be any hardship. What really happens is that the prices are copied blindly and automatically and normally the copying takes place of a superseded notification. I assert emphatically that this 14 annas came about because that rate was once fixed there, and fortunately for us our efficient department came across that issue of the Fort St. George Gazette saying that the price is 14 annas. So 14 annas was copied, whereas the Government of India has already fixed at one rupee. This sort of interregnum in the fixing of prices can be avoided, if the prices ruling there will automatically become the prices here. Under the Defence of India Rules, any notification publised there will automatically be in force here.

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government):* These things are not done arbitrarily. These details are communicated by the Government officials in British India or we note from their Gazettes. Anti-hoarding and profiteering rules provide that no article should be sold at more than 20 per cent of the landed cost price. Another provision there is by which specific prices can be fixed for particular articles. The one is a general provision. Where a particular price is provided or fixed for a particular article that general provision should not be prevailed upon but it is the latter provision. Sometimes Government of India fixes prices for specific articles from time to time. They are doing it, I suppose either on grounds of complaint that they receive or on much better data than we have. They collect through their Director of Food Supplies or their statistical branch or their commerce department. I am not conversant with the details of procedure that is adopted by the Government of India. We may take it for granted that they have got an adequate machinery by which they can watch and fix the prices of these articles from time to time. Once they fix the articles there is also provision in the same legislation by which the retailers and wholesalers can approach the Government for a revision of those rates. That provision is followed by large wholesale importers of Bombay, Calcutta, Karachy, Madras and such similar places and when these representations reach the Government of India sometimes they revise the rates to the favour of the dealers and sometimes they do not. All that takes time. The difficulty which the Hon'ble Member points out is in my opinion not a difficulty which is peculiar to this State alone. It is prevalent throughout the whole of India and it is a difficulty which cannot be obviated also. There may be representations and when the Government is satisfied that there is a reasonable case for revision they revise the rates. On that ground we cannot say the old rates fixed were wrong or ultrawires or should not have been given in the Gazette. That rate was fixed on the data that the Government of India then had. Further information is forwarded to them or conditions of shipping have changed and naturally they revise their rates. There will always be an interval between the old and the new rates. Similarly we would have provided the rates that the Government of India fixed which appeared in the Gazette a fortnight back. Similarly we would require a fortnight to publish our revised rates. Some time will elapse between the publication of the first the second sets of rates. Further there is another point, take the case of Calicut, take the case of Palghat, take the case of our own Chittur. Where is the difference between Palghat and Chittur. How much is the difference between Calicut and Bombay and Ernakulam and Bombay. If one price can rule in Calicut, I am sure the same price can rule in Ernakulam provided the article is one that was imported through Bombay and the price that is given in the Government of India Gazette is the one that prevails throughout India. Therefore these subtle differences are not of such enormous magnitude as to cause delay in ordinary distribution through the normal trade channels. There will be this difficulty of slight delay of a few days here and there when such an administrative machinery is to work through out the entire length and breadth of India. It cannot be avoided. I do not know also whether any local body would be able to advise us with regard to these specialised articles that are imported through Bombay and Calcutta. I do not also know whether Government of India will be prepared to accept the verdict of any local body with regard to these matters. Therefore what I want to inform the House at this stage is only this. This is not a matter which is of such importance and magnitude and that it should

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

be debated by way of adjournment motion. The Hon'ble Member can draw the attention of the Government and we will do all we can to expedite the publication of these prices, so that there will not be so much delay as is now alleged.

Mr. President: I am not satisfied that this is a matter of such urgent public importance as to justify the adjourment of the very important business of this House. The Hon'ble Member has I think achieved his object by bringing the matter to the notice of the Government and he has heard the representatives of the Government saying that they are on the watch for these changes of prices, will study them and whenever it is considered necessary will afford the relief which the Hon'ble Member asks.

Now Mr. Kumaran Ezhuthassan has given another notice of his intention to move for adjournment of the Council to discuss an urgent matter of public importance, namely the grave situation that has arisen because of the control measures regarding the tapioca grown in the State I shall be glad if the Hon'ble Member will show me how this is a matter of public importance and of recent occurrence.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* On the question of recent occurrence Sir, I may submit that tapioca is an article which is lifted in the months of Karkadagam or towards the end of Mithunam generally. The lifting season has started and there is no market for it. It becomes unusable a day or two after the same is lifted. Hence it is urgent. It is of public importance Sir in the view that because of the Food Production Drive by the Hon'ble Minister many persons who were not taking to the cultivation of tapioca have actually taken to cultivation even with borrowed capital. Now the articles are fit to be lifted and sold. It is actually seen in the market too. Beacuse of the control measures which prevent tapioca being taken out of the State or being converted into starch the commodity has necessarily to be undersold. I speak with experience of such underselling. The price fixed by the Government is 8 pies per pound. Even for 5 pies or 4 pies it cannot be sold in the market. And we have no idea of the stock. It is so large. Hence the gravity and importance of the situation. To add to that, subsequent to the tabling of the motion, another matter has come to my notice that Government have got better facilities in the matter of transport. To Government, lorries are supplied for the transport whereas the ordinary cultivator has nothing of the sort. It is only an additional factor that has come to my notice, hence this matter is of public importance and urgent.

Rao Sahib M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies):* It is true that there is accumulation of tapioca in some parts of State. I have already submitted proposals to convert a portion of it into sago and flakes or starch under strict Government supervision. I have also submitted proposals to lift the ban restricting the sales to licensed people, and also to remove the restriction for the movement of tapioca within the State. The control that remains is with regard to export. It does not seem safe to allow export generally. But the situation will be watched and we will also see that a portion of the tapioca is converted into sago flakes and starch. But still if there is a large surplus which cannot be absorbed here, the question of export will be considered.

Mr. President: From what the Hon'ble Member has said, the Hon'ble Member who has given notice of his motion will realise that the Government are already alive to the critical situation with regard to tapioca and have taken and are taking such measures as in their opinion are necessary, to meet it. For these reasons I do not consider that it is necessary to adjourn the business of the House.

Condolence Motion on the demise of Mr. K. Krishna Pisharodi

Mr. P. V. Rapheal *(Comptroller of Finance and Accounts):* It is my melancholy privilege to move the following resolution for the acceptance of the House.

"This House places on record its deep sorrow on the sad demise of Mr. K. Krishna Pisharodi, who had been for some time the Comptroller of Accounts and the Ex.-Officio Finance Member of this House".

Born in August, 1877 Mr. Pisharodi hails from an ancient Pisharom of Kattur. His father Mr. Rama Pisharodi was a Munsiff at Trichur. After passing the Matriculation examination from the Trichur Sirkar High School and completing his F. A. course in the Ernakulam College Mr. Pisharodi joined State service as a clerk in the Huzur Accounts Department. After serving in the Devaswam, Public Works, Forest and Tramway Departments he eventually became the senior auditor of the Comptroller's office. Through the good offices of Mr. Rudolph Grubb sometime Tramway Engineer in the State and under whom Mr. Pisharodi had the good fortune to serve as manager, Mr. Pisharodi secured the post of the Chief Accountant of Mr. Grubb's firm in Dublin, in which capacity he served for 3 years. He utilised this period for attending

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